

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims

As a result of the present amendment, claims 1-6 and 8 are presented for continued prosecution.

Process claim 6 has been amended to clarify that the process includes the steps of coiling and uncoiling the pre-strip, heating the pre-strip inside coiling devices, heating the pre-strip outside the coiling devices, controlling the coiling step by speeding up or slowing down, and controlling the speed of the pre-strip during the coiling and uncoiling steps. Support for this clarification can be found, for example, in paragraph 7 on page 3, in paragraph 3 on page 4, and in paragraphs 3-4 on page 5 of the application.

Claim 6 has also been amended to include the limitations of claim 7. Claim 7 has been canceled.

New independent claim 8 substantially mirrors claim 6, except that the phrase "with said inside heating (7) being controlled by a special software of the pre-strip (a)" has been moved to an earlier location in the claim. New matter has not been added.

B. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and Amendments

Claims 6 and 7 had been rejected as being indefinite.

First, the Examiner stated that there is a lack of antecedent basis for "the coiling devices" in claim 6. Applicant respectfully disagrees. "Coiling devices (A)" are recited for the first time in line 7 of currently amended claim 6. This portion of the claim recites that the pre-strip is heated inside coiling devices (A). Thus, "coiling devices (A)" are being introduced in a positive manner to recite the location where the pre-strip is heated. Applicant believes that claim 6 is definite.

Applicant notes that the Examiner might have intended to reject "the coiling device" of claim 7, not claim 6, for a lack of antecedent basis. As a result, when adding the subject matter of claim 7 to claim 6, Applicant replaced "the coiling device" with "the coiling devices (A)".

Second, the Examiner stated that the method steps of claim 6 are unclear. Applicant has amended claim 6 to clarify that the method steps include coiling and uncoiling the pre-strip, heating the pre-strip inside coiling devices, heating the pre-strip outside the coiling devices, controlling the coiling step by speeding up or slowing down, and controlling the speed of the pre-strip during the coiling and uncoiling steps. These steps are described, for example, in paragraph 7 on page 3, in paragraph 3 on page 4, and in paragraphs 3-4 on page 5 of the application. It is believed that claim 6 adequately recites the process steps.

Third, the Examiner questioned whether two controlling steps are recited in claim 6. Claim 6 does recite two controlling steps, as clarified in the amended claim.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 complies with § 112.

C. Allowable Subject Matter and Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5 had been allowed. Claim 6 had been rejected as being unpatentable over Tippins (U.S. 4,430,874) in view of Quambusch (U.S. 5,131,134). In addition, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 6.

Applicant has amended claim 6 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 7. Claim 7 has been canceled. It is therefore believed that the prior art rejection is overcome, and that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

D. Fees

This Response is being filed within the shortened statutory period for reply. No fee is believed to be due. If, on the other hand, it is determined that fees are due or any overpayment has been made, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to Deposit Account No. 02-2275. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

E. Conclusion

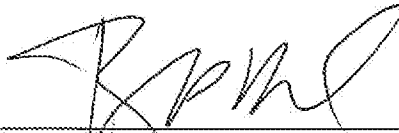
In view of the actions taken and arguments presented, it is respectfully submitted that each and every one of the matters raised by the Examiner has been addressed by the present amendment and that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By:



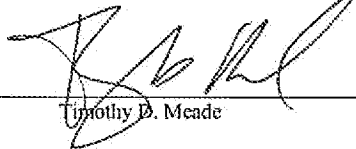
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I hereby certify that this document is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents via EFS-Web on March 9, 2007.

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